

October 6, 2011

National Park Service-California State Parks Collaboration in Marin County Questions and Answers

What motivated this agreement?

NPS was concerned that closure of California State Parks within NPS boundaries could lead to problems of crowding and possible damage to NPS resources. In addition, given the long history of partnership between NPS and State Parks, the managers of the Marin parks had a longstanding framework for resource sharing and mutual assistance.

Why only these two State Parks?

Samuel P. Taylor and Tomales Bay State Parks are the only two Marin parks on the State Parks closure list that are within the boundaries of NPS units.

Does this provide help to the other Marin County state park units slated to be closed?

No. Olompali State Historic Park and China Camp State Park remain on the closure list at this time.

What are the benefits of the new State fee charged to Muir Woods visitors?

The fee will be placed in the Redwood Creek Watershed Collaboration Fund, and will be used to fund projects resource protection efforts and improve the experience of visitors to the watershed. Also, funds will be available to allow California State Parks to operate Samuel P. Taylor State Park on a reduced schedule.

How much money will be generated from this fee?

As much as \$1 million could be generated annually.

How will this fund keep Samuel P Taylor State Park open?

Approximately \$475,000 from the Redwood Creek Watershed Collaboration Fund will be made available for operation of Samuel P. Taylor State Park. The park will be open at least five days per week.

What kinds of projects will be funded from the Redwood Creek Watershed Collaboration Fund?

Projects and programs such as habitat restoration, trail improvements, improved exhibits, and volunteer management, among others, will be considered for funding. The State Park and National Park officials in Marin will determine the project/program list annually.

Will visitors with a State Parks pass have to pay the new Muir Woods fee?

No.

Are there other examples where the NPS collects fees for other agencies?

Yes. For example, at Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park collects a fee for the U.S. Forest Service as has Rocky Mountain NP and Timpanogos Cave NM. Pipe Spring NM collects for Kaibab Indian Reservation.

Will the rules change in any of the parks covered by this agreement?

At Tomales Bay State Park, the NPS would collect California State Park fees on behalf of the state. All fees are set by the California State Parks and would not be affected by this agreement. The NPS would assume full law enforcement authority to manage the area under all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

What about State Parks employees - will they remain on the job?

This agreement will allow most State Parks employees in the two parks to remain on the job in those parks.

How will Point Reyes staff the sites at Tomales Bay State Park?

The agreement between Point Reyes National Seashore and Tomales Bay State Park will preserve the existing State Park maintenance position through an Intergovernmental Personnel Action (IPA). Existing Point Reyes National Seashore staff will assume law enforcement responsibilities and will provide additional maintenance support as necessary.

Will the agreement result in reduced service at Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area?

No.

How many days a week will Tomales Bay State Park be open?

This is to be determined, but most likely it will be open four days per week, Friday-Monday.

How many days a week will Samuel P. Taylor State Park be open?

This is still to be determined, but most likely it will be five days per week, Thursday-Monday.